during Tenth Five Year plan is not available. An annual growth rate of 14% for micro, small and medium enterprises has been envisaged for Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

Sl.No.	Year	Growth Rates (%age)
1.	2002-03	8.68
2.	2003-04	9.64
3.	2004-05	10.88
4.	2005-06	12.32
5.	2006-07	12.60

(b) and (c) The Government is fully seized of the problems, issues and constraints being faced by micro and small enterprises. The programmes/schemes of the Ministry of MSME are primarily meant for increasing the productivity and share of MSE sector in the total manufacturing output and to enhance their competitiveness. Some of the initiatives taken recently for the promotion and development of MSEs are listed below:

(i) Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises with the objective to double the credit flow to this sector in a period of 5 years;

(ii) Enactment of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancement of their competitiveness;

(iii) According priority to the Cluster-based approach for holistic and integrated development of the MSE sector;

(iv) Initiating action on the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) to address the technology, marketing and skill upgradation needs of the MSME sector; and

(v) Implementation of a Package for Promotion of MSEs which comprises of the proposals/schemes having direct impact on the promotion and development of the MSEs.

Delay in track expansion plan

2126. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways' track expansion plans are getting delayed due to shortage in the supply of concrete sleepers;

(b) whether the production of sleepers fell from 5.40 lakhs in April 2008 to just 48,000 in July 2008; and

(c) if so, whether the vendors supplying the sleepers are on the verge of closing their units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Reduced sleeper availability during June 2008 to August 2008 has affected the progress of targeted projects/works to a certain extent. However, other factors like unprecedented hike in steel prices has also adversely contributed towards the progress of work during the current year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Matter has been resolved and production of sleeper has been resumed.

Allocation of unutilized railway land to SCs/STs

†2127. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the availability of barren land (KADIM) along the railway-tracks lying unutilized across the length and breadth of the country; and

(b) whether Government has any plan to allot this land to persons belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railway land along Railway tracks is required and utilized for maintaining and serving existing Railway lines as well as for future Railway operations.

There is no plan for alloting Railway land to any person including those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Dallirajhara-Jagdalpur rail line

†2128. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made after the year 2004 in the construction of rail line from Dallirajhara to Jagdalpur to connect Bastar district of Chhattisgarh with rail link;

(b) whether no-objection certificate has been issued by the Department of Environment for the construction of this line;

(c) the progress made in the direction of providing land by other concerned Departments;

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the construction of Dallirajhara-Jagdalpur rail line; and

(e) by when the construction of this rail line would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Railways and Government of Chhattisgarh, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) on 11.12.2007 to implement the construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur (235 Kms) new broad gauge rail link on cost-sharing basis. The work is planned to be completed in two stages, *viz.*, Dalli-Rajhara to Rowghat (95 Kms) in Phase-I and Rowghat to Jagdalpur (140 Kms) in Phase-II. Construction of the first phase, cost of which is to be borne entirely by M/s SAIL, has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for speedy execution. For Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat segment, Final Location Survey (FLS) and tendering for various components of works have been taken up. Land acquisition has also been taken up in Durg and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.